

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 24, 1983

**TO:** Warner K. Reeser

**FROM:** John Blueyes *JB*  
Ella Mulford *EM*

**cc:** Robert D. Siek

**SUBJECT:** T.A. 23-571: Jackpile-Paguate Reclamation Meetings, February 17-18, 1983

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: *SK*

Date: *6/12/13*

The Pueblo of Laguna met with CERT on February 17-18, 1983 (see Attachment I for a list of meeting participants). The meeting on February 17 was mostly a review of reclamation issues discussed in previous meetings. New members of the Reclamation Committee, Governor Edwin Martinez and Councilman Tim Anaya, were briefed on the status of all the issues. Additionally, the meeting served to prepare for a meeting with Anaconda Minerals Company on the following day. The meeting was based on former Governor Harry Early's December 3, 1982, letter to Anaconda (see Attachment II). Other issues discussed were:

- BIA Assistance. The Pueblo of Laguna will be meeting with Department of Interior officials regarding areas where the BIA could assist the tribe with respect to technical and financial support. Preliminary identification of studies that may be required are on blasting damage to Paguate homes, groundwater recovery level, reclamation of highwalls, and monitoring period for vegetation, radiation emanation, and water.
- New Mexico Highway 279. The highway will be realigned through the mine site. The state is assuming that Anaconda will prepare the road bed. Prior meetings have resulted in Anaconda offering various degrees of work during reclamation to help prepare the road bed. Anaconda will be asked to state its commitment on this issue.
- CERT Assistance. We indicated that we will continue to assist the Pueblo of Laguna within the scope of work of T.A. 23-571 until the end of March 1983, and that assistance after this date requires that the Pueblo submit a request in the form of a council resolution. The ongoing assistance will be better defined upon Anaconda's response to the December 3, 1983 letter from Harry Early.

The meeting with Anaconda on February 18 basically set the groundwork for future discussions with Anaconda (see Attachment I for meeting participants). The discussion on New Mexico Highway 279 and economic development at the Pueblo of Laguna evolved into the Pueblo asking the company for assistance in lobbying on their behalf. The Pueblo asked Anaconda to use their governmental connections to sway decisions in the federal government that would favor the



tribe in obtaining contracts to repair light and heavy equipment at the Pueblo. Anaconda was also requested to lobby the New Mexico state government to ensure approval of Highway 279. Anaconda indicated that it would use its lobbying resources to help the tribe, and that its involvement in construction of the highway will be limited to backfilling and stabilizing pits.

Anaconda made a verbal proposal to transfer reclamation funds and responsibilities to the Pueblo of Laguna. The company stated that due to the Pueblo's good relations with the government, the reclamation plan will receive approval expeditiously. The Pueblo said a decision of this magnitude will require tribal council approval. The tribe related they will give Anaconda's offer every consideration.

The meeting did not address all the issues listed in the December 3, 1983 letter. Anaconda adamantly stated that it will remain committed to the contents of its reclamation plan when addressing the December 3 letter. Issues in the letter relating to non-reclamation items—i.e., transfer of the railroad spur and buildings, eliminating highwalls, etc.—will be given every consideration. The reclamation issues—i.e., monitoring, slopes, arroyo headcuts, etc.—will remain as stated in the reclamation plan. However, the personnel in Anaconda's Grants office were delegated additional responsibilities to negotiate on the reclamation-related issues. Anaconda management will rule on the final results.